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Letter dated 21 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the attack on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine patrol in Yasynuvata conducted by illegal armed groups on 20 June 2017 (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 21 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the attack on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine patrol in Yasynuvata by illegal armed groups

21 June 2017

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine strongly condemns the constant provocations, pressure and threats by pro-Russian militants against observers of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territories of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

The latest attack on the patrol of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission observers on 20 June 2017 in the town of Yasynuvata is a cause for significant concern. According to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission spot report, militants armed with machine guns fired in the direction of OSCE patrol vehicles, attempted to access the vehicles, threatened the observers with weapons and smashed the glass of one of the vehicles.

We consider this assault to be an attempt by the Russian Federation and the illegal armed groups controlled by Russia to further intensify the intimidation of OSCE observers, to restrict their access to uncontrolled territories and to obstruct the implementation of the mandate of the Special Monitoring Mission.

We demand that the Russian Federation fulfil its obligations under international law and the Minsk agreements, guarantee the security of and stop its provocations against OSCE observers, and ensure full freedom of movement and unimpeded access of the Special Monitoring Mission to the entire occupied territory in certain areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, including the part of the Ukrainian-Russian border temporarily not controlled by Ukraine.